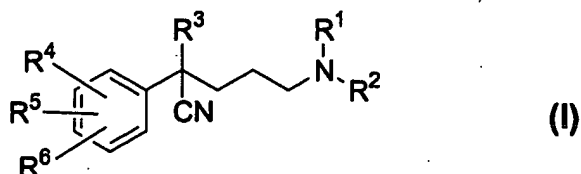


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hair growth promoting composition comprising, as an effective ingredient, a phenylacetonitrile derivative or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof expressed by the following Formula (I):

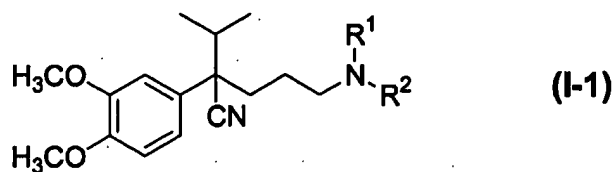


wherein each of R¹ and R² is hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group, a C₂₋₁₀ alkenyl group or C₂₋₁₀ acyl group, or NR¹R² may be a heterocycle having 3-7 members;

R³ is a C₁₋₅ alkyl group; and

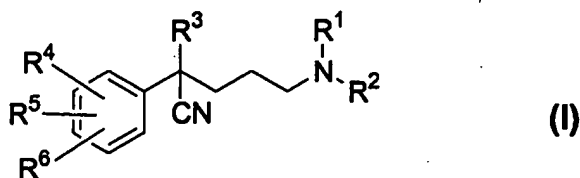
each of R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ is hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkoxy group.

2. The hair growth promoting composition according to claim 1, wherein said phenylacetonitrile derivative is expressed by the following Formula (I-1):



wherein R¹ and R² are as defined in said Formula (I).

3. The hair growth promoting composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen atom or an alkyl group and the other is an alkyl group.
4. An external preparation for skin comprising a phenylacetonitrile derivative or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof expressed by the following Formula (I):

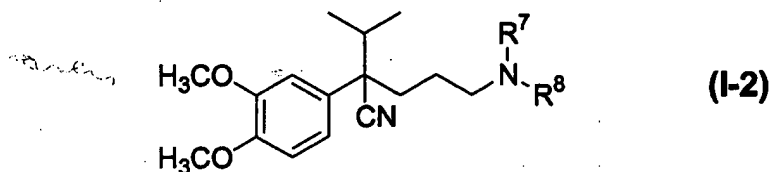


wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen atom, a C_{1-10} alkyl group, a C_{2-10} alkenyl group or C_{2-10} acyl group, or NR^1R^2 may be a heterocycle having 3-7 members;

R^3 is a C_{1-5} alkyl group; and

each of R^4 , R^5 and R^6 is hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group.

5. A phenylacetonitrile derivative or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof expressed by the following Formula (I-2):



wherein each of R^7 and R^8 is hydrogen atom, a C_{1-5} alkyl group or a C_{2-5} alkenyl group, or NR^7R^8 may be a nonaromatic heterocycle having 3-7 members containing one nitrogen atom or an aromatic heterocycle having 5-7 members containing 1-3 nitrogen atoms, and wherein when one of R^7 and R^8 is hydrogen atom or methyl group, the other is C_{2-5} alkyl group or C_{2-5} alkenyl group.

6. A method for promoting hair growth, which comprises applying an effective amount of the phenylacetonitrile derivative or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof expressed by said Formula (I) on skin of mammals.

7. A method for promoting hair growth according to claim 6, wherein the skin of mammals is human scalp.